

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 16000 092137Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 COME-00  
EB-08 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00  
FEA-01 STR-05 /115 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3028  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 16000

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEC, XF, PFOR  
SUBJ: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE'S GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN  
BRUSSELS

REF: BRUSSELS 15396

1. NOVEMBER 8 EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN DG-I (EXTERNAL RELATIONS) AND DG-VIII (DEVELOPMENT) WHO PARTICIPATED IN EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE'S GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 26-29, ADDED A FEW FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT MEETING TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL.

2. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID THAT IN CONTRAST TO EUROPEANS' APPROACH TO DIALOGUE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE ARABS CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THE DIALOGUE'S POLITICAL ASPECT MORE IMPORTANT THAN ITS ECONOMIC SIDE. THE EUROPEANS,  
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FEARING THAT THE ECONOMIC ASPECT "WOULD LOSE CREDIBILITY" IF THERE WERE NO PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS DURING THE OCTOBER 26-29 SESSIONS, USED THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AS A LEVER TO GET THE ARABS TO FOCUS ON THE ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH MODEST PROGRESS THEREON AS ULTIMATELY OCCURRED. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIALS, EUROPEAN DELEGATION SAID AT ONE POINT THAT UNLESS

ARABS AGREED TO SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES (E.G., A FUNDING MECHANISM FOR UNDERTAKING INFRASTRUCTURE FEASIBILITY STUDIES APPROVED BY THE DIALOGUE'S AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP) THE EUROPEANS WOULD NOT AGREE TO INCLUDE IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE THE TEXTS OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL'S MIDEAST DECLARATION OF JUNE 29 AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF OCTOBER 27 UN RESOLUTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 126 AS DESIRED BY ARABS, AND MIGHT NOT, IN FACT, AGREE TO ANY POLITICAL LANGUAGE. IN THE END, THE ARABS GAVE SOME ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC MATTERS AND EUROPEANS ACCEPTED INCLUSION OF THE TEXTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST MENTIONED ABOVE.

3. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIALS, THE EUROPEANS INITIALLY PRESSED FOR INCLUSION IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF A CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM, INCLUDING AIR HIJACKING. ARABS SAID THEY MIGHT AGREE IF EUROPEANS WOULD SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE CONDEMNATION OF "ISRAELI TERRORISM". ARAB RIPOSTE CAUSED EUROPEANS TO DROP THE WHOLE IDEA, ALTHOUGH DG-I OFFICIAL (A GERMAN NATIONAL) WITH WHOM MISSION OFFICER SPOKE SPECULATED, WITHOUT PROVIDING SUPPORTING DETAILS, THAT EUROPEANS MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED ARAB ACQUIESCENCE TO SOME CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ISRAEL, "IF WE HAD BARGAINED HARDER."

4. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ACCEPTED AS VALID MISSION OFFICERS OBSERVATION THAT WHEREAS SIX TO NINE MONTHS AGO  
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COMMUNITY OFFICIALS PROFESSED TO BELIEVE THEY WERE BRINGING ARABS AROUND TO EUROPEAN VIEW THAT EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE SHOULD BE PRIMARILY A FORUM FOR EXCHANGES ON PRACTICAL ECONOMIC MATTERS, IT NOW SEEMS APPARENT THAT THE EUROPEANS ARE AT LEAST TACITLY RESIGNED TO SEEING THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE DIALOGUE GIVEN MORE OR LESS EQUAL WEIGHT. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARGUED THAT THIS IS TRUE NOT BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF THE EC NINE WANT IT THAT WAY BUT BECAUSE THE ARABS "WILL HAVE NO DIALOGUE WITHOUT THE POLITICAL DIMENSION." THEY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EUROPEANS WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO KEEP THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS WITHIN ACCEPTABLE BOUNDS.

5. COMMISSION OFFICIALS EXPECT THE NEXT GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN MARCH OR APRIL, 1978. THEY DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE MUCH ACTIVITY IN THE DIALOGUE'S SEVERAL WORKING GROUPS BEFORE JANUARY. MORRIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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